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Apex and Public Officials Comment on Republic Wind Farm

"We will be appealing the OPSB's decision immediately." Apex

Richard Stegman, Senior Staff Reporter

The Ohio Siting Board (OSPB) on Thursday, June 24, denied Apex Clean Energy's application to build the proposed Republic Wind Project.

In previous articles in *The Hub* it has been reported that Republic Wind would have approximately 50 Industrial Wind Turbines at an approximate height of 600 ft. and a blade diameter of 350 ft. It had been observed that in some cases family members were both pro and con the turbines.

According to Deb Hay, a local anti-turbine leader "the project had broad and deep opposition from a majority of residents to numerous local officials." She also stated, "One has to wonder why a company (Apex) would continue to push such a disastrous project."

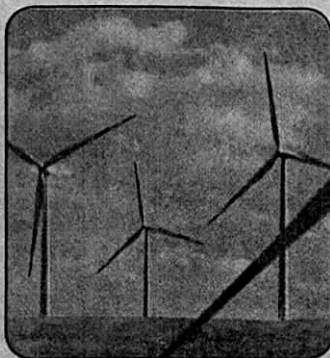
Dalton Carr, development manager for Republic Wind, stated "This decision is a shocking departure from previous OPSB decisions and seems to demonstrate a disregard for the intent of Ohio Code," Carr continued with "We will be appealing the OPSB's decision immediately. This decision is not only

arbitrary but leaves little doubt that Ohio is closed for innovation."

Carr also stated "Republic Wind was found to be compliant with code by agency staff . . . The project has a tremendous amount of support with more than 200 participating landowners, and the fact that a vocal minority of wind opponents could influence the OPSB in this manner certainly makes us wonder if a backroom political deal has been struck."

On June 29 a press release issued by the Seneca Anti-Wind Union (SAWU) announced a further blow to local wind turbines was moving forward. The press release stated "We are excited that the Ohio House has passed Senate Bill 52 giving local control on industrial wind and solar projects... the bill now heads to Governor DeWine's desk for his signature. Chris Aichholz, another local leader against the turbines, shared with "We are hopeful that Governor DeWine will sign this bill in the coming days."

See Republic Wind on B1



Republic Wind from A1

Seneca Anti-Wind Union also thanked Senator Bill Reineke, Senator Rob McColley, Representatives Craig Riedel and Dick Stein. SAWU concluded the press release with "...we also thank our local Representative Gary Click, the Seneca County Commissioners, and several local Township Trustees for their unwavering support."

Gary Click offered "I applaud the new direction of the OPSB under the strong leadership of Director French. No project can be in the public interest when there is such a persistent and pervasive outcry from the public." Click further added "This discussion cannot be simply reduced to arguments about wind power. The real issue here is about the power of the people..."

Fellow Democrat, and previous opponent of Click in the 88th District, Chris Liebold shared "The rejection of the proposed plan by the OPSB shows the power of collective action. Whether someone was for or against this project, you cannot deny the power of community organizing that was involved. Liebold continued with "I also believe the addition of former Justice French to the OPSB was an important element as her years of judicial experience I'm sure aided the board in reaching a reasonable resolution. Oftentimes State government in Ohio leaves us dejected, but today at least we know a state agency heard local voices."

Republic Wind Project was partly in Sandusky County. Scott Miller, Sandusky County Commissioner, stated "Wind turbines are widely accepted as a source of renewable energy - I would agree. However, the placement of turbines in our rural farm community doesn't seem widely accepted. I am on that side..." Miller concluded his statements with "...the turbines would drastically change the existing horizon for many, and the change would be in place for decades to come."